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RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

[*on the report of the Sixth Committee (A/53/630)*]

53/99. Action dedicated to the 1999 centennial of the first International Peace Conference and to the closing of the United Nations Decade of International Law

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming once again the commitment of the United Nations and its Member States, as well as the States parties to the Statute of the International Court of Justice, to the goals of the United Nations Decade of International Law, as expressed by the General Assembly in resolutions under that item of its agenda,[1]

Mindful of the long and well-established tradition of progressive development and codification of international law, marked by the first and the second International Peace Conferences, held at The Hague in 1899 and 1907 respectively,

Recalling that a third international peace conference, scheduled to be held at The Hague in 1915, was not held because of the outbreak of the First World War the previous year,

Recalling also the proposal by the Russian Federation for a third international peace conference with a view to considering international law and order in the post-cold-war world at the threshold of the twenty-first century, referred to in General Assembly resolution 51/159 of 16 December 1996, and the initiatives undertaken by the Federation and the Kingdom of the Netherlands with regard to the commemoration of the first International Peace Conference,

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[1] Notably resolutions 44/23, 51/157 and 52/153.

Noting with satisfaction that the realization of the programme of action dedicated to the centennial of the first International Peace Conference, presented by the Netherlands and the Russian Federation,[2] is consistent with the goals of the United Nations Decade of International Law,

Noting, in this respect, that meetings of the Friends of 1999, held at The Hague in 1997 and in Moscow and New York in 1998, further contributed to the substantive content of the programme of action,

Noting also the preliminary reports on the themes of the commemoration of the centennial of the first International Peace Conference,

Expressing its gratitude to the rapporteurs and all organizations, groups and individuals who contributed to the discussion of the centennial themes,

Bearing in mind the progress report[3] and the agenda[4] of the commemorative meetings to be held at The Hague and at St. Petersburg,

Noting that the outcome of action pertaining to the centennial of the first International Peace Conference will be submitted to the General Assembly for its consideration at the closing of the United Nations Decade of International Law,

Noting also that the programme of action does not entail budgetary implications for the United Nations,

1. *Welcomes* the progress made in the realization of the programme of action, presented by the Governments of the Netherlands and the Russian Federation,[2] which aims at contributing to the further development of the themes of the first and the second International Peace Conference and could be regarded as a third international peace conference;

2. *Encourages*:

(*a*) The Governments of the Russian Federation and the Netherlands to continue with the implementation of the programme of action;

(*b*) All States to participate in the activities set out in the programme of action, as well as to initiate such activities and to coordinate their efforts in this respect at the global level, as well as at the regional and national levels;

(*c*) All States to take appropriate measures to ensure universal participation in the activities pursuant to the programme of action, with special consideration for the participation of representatives of the least developed countries;

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[2] A/C.6/52/3, annex.

[3] See A/C.6/53/10, annex.

[4] See A/C.6/53/11, annex.

3. *Encourages* the competent organs, subsidiary organs, programmes and specialized agencies of the United Nations, including the International Court of Justice, the International Law Commission and the Secretariat, within their respective competencies, as well as other international organizations, non-governmental organizations, groups and individuals, as appropriate:

(*a*) To continue to contribute to the discussions on the themes of the commemoration of the centennial of the first International Peace Conference on the basis of the preliminary reports;

(*b*) To consider participating in the activities envisaged in the programme of action and contributing to work towards meaningful conclusions of the debates on the themes of the commemoration of the centennial of the first International Peace Conference;

4. *Requests* the Governments of the Netherlands and the Russian Federation to prepare reports on the outcome of the centennial celebrations at The Hague and at St. Petersburg for submission to the General Assembly at its fifty-fourth session, with a view to their consideration at the closing of the United Nations Decade of International Law;

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure consistency between the activities of the Organization relating to the closing of the United Nations Decade of International Law and those relating to the programme of action and to coordinate with the Governments of the Netherlands and the Russian Federation his efforts with regard to the closing of the Decade;

6. *Invites* the Secretary-General to consider any activities to promote the outcome of the United Nations Decade of International Law, including the possibility of the issuance by the United Nations of a set of jubilee postage stamps and postcards in commemoration of the centennial of the first International Peace Conference;

7. *Decides* to consider in the plenary meeting at its fifty-fourth session dedicated to the closing of the United Nations Decade of International Law the outcome of the action dedicated to the 1999 centennial of the first International Peace Conference and to the closing of the Decade;

8. *Decides also* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-fourth session, under the item entitled "United Nations Decade of International Law", a sub-item entitled "Outcome of the action dedicated to the 1999 centennial of the first International Peace Conference".

83rd plenary meeting
8 December 1998